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AN APPARATUS FOR THE CORRECTION OF TALIPES EQUINO VARUS.

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THE following is a description of a piece of apparatus which has been found useful in correcting talipes equino varus without tenotomy; and in maintaining the foot in an over-corrected position after the operation. It is a modification of the snow-shoe method, which consists of a shingle, long enough to project beyond the toes for two or three inches, strapped to the sole of the foot, with a side arm running outwards at right angles to the foot. The heel is held firmly to the shingle by means of bandages and adhesive-plaster straps running up the leg. The long projecting end of the shingle in front furnishes a lever by which to flex the foot. The flexion is obtained by means of tightening a strap, the upper end of which is put through a buckle fastened to the shin by adhesive plaster, and the lower end fastened to the front end of the shingle. Eversion of the foot is accomplished by a similar strap, extending from the end of the side arm to the middle of the leg.

The apparatus described here consists of a light frame, which replaces the plaster around the leg, and

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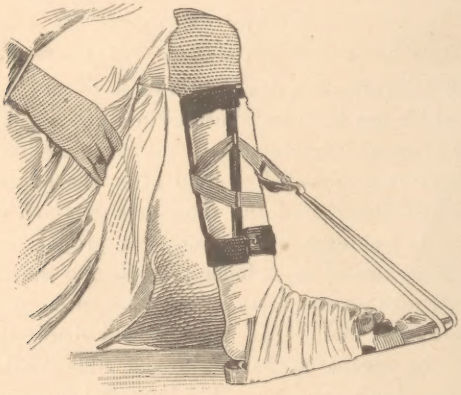
furnishes a basis for flexing the foot without obstructing the circulation of the leg, as often happens with the method just described. It consists of three uprights connected by two semicircular posterior steel bands. Each of these calf bands is furnished with a strap and buckle. The two side uprights have each



two eyelets riveted to their sides ; the posterior upright has but a single eyelet placed behind. The two buckles, which are to receive the straps that come from the toe and arm of the shingle, are sewed to the side of a piece of webbing of about eighteen inches in length. They should be side by side, and less than two inches from one end of the strip. To this end is also sewed another buckle, by which the strip can be buckled to itself. Furnished with its buckles, the long

webbing is applied to the leg in the form of a figure-of-eight, passing through the several eyelets, as shown in the cut. This will bring the two buckles in front over the shin. Through these are passed the straps from the shingle and its arm. By tightening on these straps flexion and eversion may be obtained to any desired amount. The pressure will be so much distributed that it will not impede the venous circulation. Finally, the whole frame is not pulled down by the tension of the straps; for the more strain brought by them on the buckles, the tighter will it cause the webbing to which they are attached to grip the limb. The simplicity of this apparatus and its ready application are much in its favor.